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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

BULLOCK JR, LEWIS ALEXANDER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2195

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/346,789	Applicant(s) NIEMI, FREDERICK E.	
Examiner Lewis A. Bullock, Jr.	Art Unit 2195	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12, 14-31, 33-42 and 44-50 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-12, 14-31, 33-42 and 44-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 8, 15, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42 and 44-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Monitoring Distributed Systems" by JOYCE in view of BONNELL (US 5,655,081).

As to claim 8, JOYCE teaches a computer workstation (console) for use in a computer network having at least one process manager (controller), the workstation comprising: at least one application or process (created monitorable process); a configuration service (channel) in communicating relationship with the at least one application or process (created monitorable process), wherein the at least one application or process and the configuration service layer cooperate to generate and issue, a registration service request (event / monitoring information) to the at least one process manager (controller) upon opening of the at least one application or process at the computer workstation (see fig. 5; pg. 130, Consoles, "When a monitorable process enters a Jipc system, or is created, it is automatically included in any monitoring session active on its host machine... Monitoring information is collected automatically, and all consoles receive monitoring information in a predefined format from a single

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controller.”; pg. 129-130, “A system can contain only one controller, its purpose is to serve as a central site through which all events reported to the channels must pass before they are distributed to the consoles.”; pg. 128, “A monitorable event occurs whenever a process initiates or completes any of the following operations: entering or leaving a Jipc system...”; pg. 130, Consoles, “Monitoring information is collected automatically, and all consoles receive monitoring information in a predefined format from a single controller...”; pg. 130, “Consoles for displaying individual Jipc events...have been built.”; pg. 139-140, An Event Line Console; pg. 140, “A process’s event line is blank before it enters the Jipc system or is created and after it leaves the Jipc system or is killed.”). However, JOYCE does not teach a network communication facility wherein a registration request is sent through the network communication facility.

BONNELL teaches a network communication facility (communications module of agent computer / communications module of manager software system) (col. 3, lines 10-15; col. 2, line 67 – col. 3, line 2; col. 9, lines 40-60) wherein the configuration service layer (agent software) generates and issues a registration request (information / state of resources and processes) through the network communication facility (col. 7, lines 1-12). Therefore, it would be obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of JOYCE with the teachings of BONNELL in order to facilitate an enterprise management system that will increase automation and efficiency in network management and decrease the complexity of such management (col. 6, lines 20-47).

As to claim 15, BOYCE teaches a topology server (agent software system) configured to detect a new device (resource) added to the network and, upon detecting the new device (resource), to issue a notification object (monitoring event) to a user application interface (console) (abstract; col. 7, lines 1-14).

As to claim 22, refer to claim 8 for rejection.

As to claim 23, refer to claim 8 for rejection.

As to claims 25 and 26, reference is made to a system that corresponds to the method of claims 22 and 23 and is rejected for the same reasoning as disclosed in claims 22 and 23 above.

As to claims 28 and 29, refer to claim 8 for rejection.

As to claim 31, reference is made to a computer readable media that corresponds to the method of claim 22 and is therefore met by the rejection of claim 22 above.

As to claims 33 and 34, refer to claims 28 and 29 for rejection.

As to claims 36 and 37, refer to claims 28 and 29 for rejection.

As to claims 39 and 40, refer to claims 28 and 29 for rejection.

As to claim 42, refer to claim 28 for rejection.

As to claims 44 and 45, refer to claims 28 and 29 for rejection.

As to claims 46 and 47, refer to claims 28 and 29 for rejection.

As to claims 48 and 49, refer to claims 28 and 29 for rejection.

As to claims 50, refer to claim 28 for rejection.

3. Claims 1-4, 7-11, 14-19 and 22-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Monitory Distributed Systems" by JOYCE in view of DENTLER (U.S. Patent 6,289,368).

As to claim 8, JOYCE teaches a computer workstation (console) for use in a computer network having at least one process manager (controller), the workstation comprising: at least one application or process (created monitorable process); a configuration service (channel) in communicating relationship with the at least one application or process (created monitorable process), wherein the at least one application or process and the configuration service layer cooperate to generate and

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issue, a registration service request (event / monitoring information) to the at least one process manager (controller) upon opening of the at least one application or process at the computer workstation (see fig. 5; pg. 130, Consoles, "When a monitorable process enters a Jipc system, or is created, it is automatically included in any monitoring session active on its host machine... Monitoring information is collected automatically, and all consoles receive monitoring information in a predefined format from a single controller.."; pg. 129-130, "A system can contain only one controller, its purpose is to serve as a central site through which all events reported to the channels must pass before they are distributed to the consoles."; pg. 128, "A monitorable event occurs whenever a process initiates or completes any of the following operations: entering or leaving a Jipc system..."; pg. 130, Consoles, "Monitoring information is collected automatically, and all consoles receive monitoring information in a predefined format from a single controller..."; pg. 130, "Consoles for displaying individual Jipc events... have been built."; pg. 139-140, An Event Line Console; pg. 140, "A process's event line is blank before it enters the Jipc system or is created and after it leaves the Jipc system or is killed."). However, JOYCE does not teach a network communication facility wherein a registration request is sent through the network communication facility.

DENTLER teaches providing notification of applications or processes by a network communication facility (fig. 1; col. 4, lines 38-57; col. 5, lines 15-46) wherein the configuration service layer (tracking means / preprocessor) generates and issues a registration request (status information that a process has initiated) through the network communication facility such that the status of the process is displayed in real-time (col.

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2, lines 62-66; col. 12, lines 14-31; col. 6, lines 33-45; col. 5, lines 35-58; col. 4, lines 50-58). Therefore, it would be obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of JOYCE with the teachings of DENTLER in order to facilitate real-time graphical representation of the status of one or more processes executing on a computer system (col. 2, lines 38-40; col. 2, lines 61-66; col. 3, lines 25-40).

As to claim 14, DENTLER teaches the user interface application (console / user window) is configured to receive the notification message (status information) and display the notification message at the network management station (monitoring computer / console) without having to close and re-start the management station (in real time) (col. 2, lines 38-40; col. 2, lines 61-66; col. 3, lines 25-40; col. 11, lines 43-50; col. 11, lines 55-64).

As to claim 15, JOYCE teaches a topology server (agent software system) configured to detect a new device (resource) added to the network and, upon detecting the new device (resource), to issue a notification object (monitoring event) to a user application interface (console) (abstract; col. 7, lines 1-14).

As to claims 22-24, refer to claims 8 and 14 for rejection.

As to claims 25-27, reference is made to a system that corresponds to the method of claims 22-24 and is rejected for the same reasoning as disclosed in claims 22-24 above.

As to claims 28-30, refer to claims 8 and 14 for rejection.

As to claim 31, reference is made to a computer readable media that corresponds to the method of claim 22 and is therefore met by the rejection of claim 22 above.

As to claim 32, reference is made to an electro-magnetic signal that corresponds to the method of claim 22 and is therefore met by the rejection of claim 22 above.

As to claims 33-35, refer to claims 28-30 for rejection.

As to claims 36-38, refer to claims 28-30 for rejection.

As to claims 39-41, refer to claims 28-30 for rejection.

As to claim 42, refer to claim 28 for rejection.

As to claim 43, refer to claim 28 for rejection.

As to claims 44 and 45, refer to claims 28 and 29 for rejection.

As to claims 46 and 47, refer to claims 28 and 29 for rejection.

As to claims 48 and 49, refer to claims 28 and 29 for rejection.

As to claims 50, refer to claim 28 for rejection.

As to claim 51, refer to claim 28 for rejection.

As to claim 1, JOYCE teaches a method for use in a computer network having a process manager (controller) and a network management station (console) for reporting to the network management station (console) the addition of new applications or processes (created monitorable process) to the computer network, the method comprising the steps of: providing a configuration service layer in communicating relationship with a new application or process (created monitorable process) and the process manager (controller); in response to opening the new application or process (creation of the monitorable process), issuing a registration service request (event / monitoring information) from the new application or process to the process manager (controller) through the configuration service layer (channel); establishing a method at the network management station for persistently and continuously listening for

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messages (events / monitoring information) from the process manager (controller); in response to receiving the registration service request (event / monitoring information) at the process manager (controller), generating and forwarding a notification message (display indication of the event) that identifies the new application or process to the network management station (console) (see fig. 5; pg. 130, Consoles, "When a monitorable process enters a Jipc system, or is created, it is automatically included in any monitoring session active on its host machine...Monitoring information is collected automatically, and all consoles receive monitoring information in a predefined format from a single controller.."; pg. 129-130, "A system can contain only one controller, its purpose is to serve as a central site through which all events reported to the channels must pass before they are distributed to the consoles."; pg. 128, "A monitorable event occurs whenever a process initiates or completes any of the following operations: entering or leaving a Jipc system..."; pg. 130, Consoles, "Monitoring information is collected automatically, and all consoles receive monitoring information in a predefined format from a single controller..."; pg. 130, "Consoles for displaying individual Jipc events...have been built."; pg. 139-140, An Event Line Console; pg. 140, "A process's event line is blank before it enters the Jipc system or is created and after it leaves the Jipc system or is killed."). However, JOYCE does not teach that the displaying the notification message without having to close and restart the management station.

DENTLER teaches providing notification of applications or processes by a network communication facility (fig. 1; col. 4, lines 38-57; col. 5, lines 15-46) wherein the configuration service layer (tracking means / preprocessor) generates and issues a

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registration request (status information that a process has initiated) through the network communication facility (col. 2, lines 62-66; col. 12, lines 14-31; col. 6, lines 33-45; col. 5, lines 35-58; col. 4, lines 50-58) such that the notification message (status of the process) is automatically displayed at the network management station without having to close and re-start the management station (in real time) (col. 2, lines 38-40; col. 2, lines 61-66; col. 3, lines 25-40; col. 11, lines 43-50; col. 11, lines 55-64). Therefore, it would be obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of JOYCE with the teachings of DENTLER in order to facilitate real-time graphical representation of the status of one or more processes executing on a computer system (col. 2, lines 38-40; col. 2, lines 61-66; col. 3, lines 25-40).

As to claim 2, DENTLER teaches a process manager window (main screen / dialog box / display) that displays a list of applications and processes opened (processes executing) in the computer network in real time (col. 3, lines 12-40; col. 6, lines 47-61; col. 8, lines 52 – col. 9, line 25; col. 11, lines 40-64). It would be obvious that since the screen is updated in real-time that when a new process is executed, thereby created or opened the screen is updated with the notification of the process's execution.

As to claims 3 and 4, DENTLER teaches the displaying a status, start time, and location of the application or process within the manager window (fig. 7(a); col. 8, lines 30-38; col. 8, lines 52-65; col. 10, lines 1-25).

As to claims 7 and 11, reference is made to a computer readable medium that corresponds to the method of claims 1 and 2, and is therefore met by the rejection of claims 1 and 2 above.

As to claim 16, JOYCE teaches a system for dynamically modifying the configuration, settings and other parameters associated with one or more applications or processes running in a computer network, the system comprising: means for registering with a process manager (controller) upon opening an application or process (creation of an monitorable process); means for generating a notification object (display indication of the event) upon the registration of an opened application or process (event received by controller); means for passing the notification object (event) to one or more user interface applications (consoles); and means for presenting the notification object in one or more user interface applications (via displaying the event that the process is created) (see fig. 5; pg. 130, Consoles, "When a monitorable process enters a Jipc system, or is created, it is automatically included in any monitoring session active on its host machine... Monitoring information is collected automatically, and all consoles receive monitoring information in a predefined format from a single controller.."; pg. 129-130, "A system can contain only one controller, its purpose is to serve as a central site through which all events reported to the channels must pass before they are distributed to the consoles."; pg. 128, "A monitorable event occurs whenever a process initiates or completes any of the following operations: entering or leaving a Jipc system..."; pg. 130,

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Consoles, "Monitoring information is collected automatically, and all consoles receive monitoring information in a predefined format from a single controller..."; pg. 130, "Consoles for displaying individual Jipc events... have been built."; pg. 139-140, An Event Line Console; pg. 140, "A process's event line is blank before it enters the Jipc system or is created and after it leaves the Jipc system or is killed."). It would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the event must have an identifier of the process since the display provides an indication that the process has been created or opened. However, JOYCE does not teach that the displaying the notification message without having to close and restart the management station.

DENTLER teaches providing notification of applications or processes by a network communication facility (fig. 1; col. 4, lines 38-57; col. 5, lines 15-46) wherein the configuration service layer (tracking means / preprocessor) generates and issues a registration request (status information that a process has initiated) through the network communication facility (col. 2, lines 62-66; col. 12, lines 14-31; col. 6, lines 33-45; col. 5, lines 35-58; col. 4, lines 50-58) such that the notification message (status of the process) is automatically displayed at the network management station without having to close and re-start the management station (in real time) (col. 2, lines 38-40; col. 2, lines 61-66; col. 3, lines 25-40; col. 11, lines 43-50; col. 11, lines 55-64). Therefore, it would be obvious at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of JOYCE with the teachings of DENTLER in order to facilitate real-time graphical representation of the status of one or more processes executing on a computer system (col. 2, lines 38-40; col. 2, lines 61-66; col. 3, lines 25-40).

As to claims 17 and 18, refer to claim 2 for rejection.

4. Claims 5, 6, 12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JOYCE in view of DENTLER as applied to claims 4, 11, and 18 above, and further in view of "Unifying Distributed Processing and Open Hypermedia through a Heterogeneous Communication Model" by GOOSE et al.

As to claim 5, the combination substantially discloses the invention. However, the combination does not teach the obtaining and displaying of a status object. GOOSE teaches wherein a process has parameters (state) associated with a status function (launch function), comprising the steps of: in response to selecting the process (select a particular process) from the process manager window (initial display), obtaining a respective status object (top-level interface) from the new process; and displaying the obtained status object (top-level interface) (pg. 10, To provide a consistent and central interface to the processes, the process manager of the HCM was extended to allow each process to be configured and manipulated through it. As the PH of each process executes, a launch message is received by the PM. The initial display on the PM is a list of processes in the system, which is updated dynamically. A user can select a particular process, which instructs the PH of the selected process to display its top-level interface."). It is inherent that since DENTLER displays the new process (newly executing process) along with already executing processes (processes already executing) that the combination allows for the display and manipulation of parameters of

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the new process as well by the client. It is also well known in the art at the time of the invention that buttons on a window or display are used to invoke methods or access data and therefore obvious that a button on the display when invoked would obtain and display the status object. Therefore, it would be obvious to combine the teachings of JOYCE with the teachings of DENTLER and GOOSE in order to allow the user and other processes the ability to call forward the interfaces of both local and remote processes (pg. 10).

As to claim 6, GOOSE teaches the step of modifying (alter) the respective parameters (state) of the process automatically and dynamically in response to manipulations of the status object (top-level interface) displayed (pg. 10, "A user can select a particular process... From here, all data from the user interface is passed directly to the selected PH and the user can alter or interrogate the state of that process.").

As to claim 12, refer to claim 5 for rejection.

As to claim 19, refer to claim 5 for rejection.

5. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JOYCE in view of DENTLER as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of MANO (U.S. Patent 5,793,366).

As to claims 20 and 21, JOYCE and DENTLER substantially disclose the invention above. However, neither reference teaches the detecting of a new device to a network. MANO teaches means for detecting a new device (device) added to a network (bus network); and means for issuing a service request to a user application interface (indication to display device) upon detecting the new device; means for receiving the service request at a user application (bus display window); and means for adding the name identifying the new device to a list of devices displayed in a window presented on a display screen of a workstation (coloring in the image of the device on the bus display window based on the device not connected to the network) (col. 5, lines 7-53; col. 3, lines 50-67; col. 4, lines 35-53; col. 7, lines 35-57). It would be obvious to one skilled in the art that the combination would allow one to monitor application processes and devices connected to the network. Therefore, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of JOYCE with the teachings of DENTLER and MANO in order to facilitate a graphical user interface which will display the devices coupled to a bus network through which the user has the ability to monitor the activity of the devices (col. 2, lines 50-57).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed November 10, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. First, the examiner would like to correct a misunderstanding of the rejection. Joyce does teach that when the registering of a process from one computer to another computer. However, it does not explicitly allude to the use of a

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network communication facility between the computers. Bonnell provides this network communication facility that is used between the computers to send messages, i.e. a registration message. Applicant argues that neither Joyce nor Bonnell disclose Applicant's claimed "the at least one application or process and the configuration service layer cooperate to generate and issue... a registration service request to the at least one process manager upon opening of the at least one application or process at the computer workstation. In particular Applicant details that the claims state upon opening of the at least one application process, the application process registers with the process manager such that the process manager forwards notice of the registration to a user interface whereas in contrast, Joyce and Bonnell disclose monitoring agents which obtain data from processes which they are monitoring, and send that data to a monitoring console or workstation. The examiner disagrees. As stated in the previous response Joyce teaches monitorable process that are monitored by channel processes. The monitorable process generate monitorable events which are defined as any Jipc process operation that may have an effect outside of that process. A monitorable event occurs whenever a process initiates or completes any of the following operations: entering or leaving a Jipc system, creating or killing a process, etc. (pg. 128). Joyce states that when an event is detected in a monitorable process, information concerning this event is sent to the channel process that is executing on the same machine (pg. 129, 2nd paragraph; pg. 129, 6th paragraph, "When an event is about to occur in a monitorable process, monitoring information is conveyed to the channel."). Joyce then states that when a controller exists, all channels forward their monitoring messages to

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the controller, which sends the information to consoles (pg. 129, 6th paragraph – pg. 130, 2nd paragraph). Consoles collect, interpret, and display event information and serve as the interface between users and the monitoring system. It is this sent event information which details that a monitorable process has started or initiated that the examiner has mapped to as the functionality that a process has opened and is registering with the process manager, herein the sending of the event to the controller for notification that the process has initiated. Each of the messages sent to the process manager and the user interface application appears to be a notification message. Registration as used in the claims appears to be message propagation. The claims detail that the sending of a registration request to the process manager, and the sending of a notification message to the user interface. Both messages appear to only notify an entity of an opened application process and therefore the claims are rejected as such. In addition, on page 15, line 29 – page 16, line 4 of the specification, Applicant details the registering of the process. It states that the process manager **preferably** generates a record identifying the new process, the workstation at which it is running, and its callback and alerts at least one user interface application. Even if the claims were interpreted to include the preferable step which is impermissible under M.P.E.P. 2111, Joyce details a history function could be provided by permitting the user to scroll the event lines both left and right (pg. 140). Joyce further states the console records, in a transcript file, all events that occur in an application system and any commands issued by the user that can affect the system's execution (pg. 142). Page 142 states, a form of controller can also be used to produce an event ordering based on logical or

simulated time wherein the controller can use these time stamps to select the event with the smallest time stamp from the set of pending events as the one that is to occur next. Therefore, Joyce defines the registering operation as detailed and defined by Applicant in the specification. Therefore, the examiner believes the claims are met as indicated in the rejection above and therefore maintains the rejection.

In addition, the Examiner would like to make Applicant aware of the publications of "Object Instrumentation for Distributed Applications Management" and "A CORBA-Based Model for Distributed Applications Management" by Schade which refers to processes, in this instance managed objects, that when created, must register themselves with the management system. This is further indications that a process created in a system must register itself either explicitly or implicitly within a monitoring system when it is created in that system such that the notification is sent to a monitoring system.

Therefore, since the claims adequately teach the limitations as disclosed, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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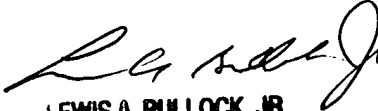
mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

February 4, 2006


LEWIS A. BULLOCK, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER